A REVIEW OF THE STATE OF THE BRITISH NATION.

Tuesday, March 18. 1712.

MY last was taken up in some needful Instructions to you, about the New Race of Villainous Night-walkers, call'd *Mobocks*; and I doubt not, my Advice if well pursu'd, will effectually Root out this Offspring of Hell from among us.

Would to God we could as easily rid the Ravag'd World of the other Product of *Satan*, which pushes Mankind upon all manner of Violence, till they make the whole Creation an Habitation of Cruelty, and a Land of Blood; for we have Christian Nations now turn'd worse than *Mobocks!* a Man would think *Satan* was let loose a second time for the Destruction of Mankind.

It would be endless to run through the various sorts of *Mobocks* which now appear in the World, and in how many Shapes the Devil transforms Mankind, to set them upon Exercising Cruelty and Inhumanity upon one another: We are apt to read the History of the Barbarities of the *Spaniards* upon the poor *Americans*, with great Detestation; the Cruelty of the *Tartars* when they broke into *Circassia* and took *Astracan*, cannot be repeated without Horror; the horrible

ible Accounts we have of the Cruelties and Inhumanities of the Inquisition, have made many, even of the *Popish* Nations, detest and reject them: But I shall give you a Story, which, if it be true, is even now put in practise upon a Protestant Nation, and Threatens the rest of *Europe* with the like; he that can read it without his Blood forsaking within him, without a certain Chill in his Veins, and his whole Soul being touch'd with the Sense of it, is either a better Christian or a worse, than I.

I give you the the Story *Verbatim*, as it is sent me: It is true, it comes from a Stranger, and therefore I [illegible] naked; had the Gentleman thought fit to have given me his Name, or a Direction how to write to him, it should have come better recommended; yet I own it has Circumstances in it which bespeak our belief, and its Concurrence with other Things, which my own Knowledge could add to it, prevails on me to believe the Fact, and recommend it to the World as very likely to be all true.

The Story, and the Letter Introducing it, without Remark or Addition, is as follows.

To the REVIEW.

SIR,

I Happened, after the Arrival of the last Post, to meet some Friends of mine, that Trade upon Sweden; which made me ask them a few Questions about the News they had receiv'd from thence, as well as about the present Condition of that suffering Country; One of them produc'd a Letter from his Correspondent there, wherein was Inclos'd a Copy of another Letter to the Swedish Senate, from an Officer of Finland, a Province of Sweden, bordering upon Muscovy, and read it to me in English. This Letter, Sir, gave such a dismal Account, which the Cruel and Inhuman Usage the poor Inhabitants of the said Province have lately met with from the Muscovites, that it perfectly shock'd me and the rest of the Company; I was, however, going to question the Truth of this Account, as coming from a Partial Hand, so far I was prevail'd upon by the general Notion we have here, of the Muscovites being now a very Civiliz'd and Polite People; but that another English Merchant in the Company, that was present at the last Siege of Riga, *assur'd me upon his Honour, that he, himself, saw several Inhabitants of* Livonia, *some of good Family, come scorch'd, half burnt, or otherwise barbarously us'd, out of the Hands of the Muscovites. Being thus convinc'd as to the matter of Fact, I cannot forbear thinking it a Shame and a Reproachful Thing to us Britains, to squander, as we do, our Wealth, hazard our Lives, nay, quarrel amongst ourselves, only for to take a Crown from one Popish Prince, in order to put it upon the Head of another, whilst, in the mean Time, we wink at our Friends and fellow Protestants being Treated in so Cruel and Barbarous a manner, and at their being sold by Thousands to Turks and Tartars, where they are Slaves, and at last forc'd to Renounce their Faith. I am afraid God's Judgment will come upon us, for suffering, and perhaps having, in some measure, contributed to the Miseries of a Country, which once defended the Protestant Religion from its entire Ruin, and now, together with us, is look'd upon as the chief Support thereof; but of this another Time. Now, Sir, as I have observ'd you to be a True and a Zealous Protestant, a Well-wisher to Mankind in general, and a Mortal Enemy to Tyranny and Oppression, so I do Address myself to you upon this Occasion, and sending you a Copy of the above-mention'd Letter, most earnestly entreat you, as you are a Man of Honour and Integrity, to publish it, together with these Lines, as soon as possible, and to set the Contents thereof in their true Light. All I desire, is, that you will only shew your self upon this Subject an upright and disinterested Man, that*

Scorns

Scorns equally to flatter and to fear, and you will eternally oblige,

Sir,

Your constant Reader,

Manlove.

P. S. *Pray, Sir, give a hint to the great Wit of this Island, that next Time he makes Heroes, he chooses better.*

A Copy of the Letter.

My Lords,

I Take the Liberty, upon the urgent Request of the Publick, to Represent to your Excellencies the most hard and Inhuman Tyranny our Enemies, the *Muscovites*, use every where, in the Countries where they can Master it. I am an Eye-Witness, and I have, with the greatest Compassion, beheld the poor Tormented People's deplorable Condition; how they, the *Muscovites*, in all Places where they came, Massacred, Burned, and left their unheard of Marks of Cruelty, as well before, as after the taking of *Wibourg*, behind them; they have most barbarously destroy'd both Men, Women, and Children. They did in *Newkirke* Parish in cold Blood, Murther in one House above fifty Persons, except one Child of six Weeks Old, and scarcely left one House, where the Innocent Protestants did not feel their Scourge, by Burnings and Torments, tying Men and Women Hand and Feet together, and hanging them a cross strong Poles, scorching them ten and twelve times over a Fire, and every time rubbing off the Scorch with Brombs and Briars, and where the Flames could not reach, they us'd Reeds and Rushes to burn them. I myself being Spectator of five or six such Places of Execution all at once, where they Murther'd those poor Souls, and some they put in red hot Ovens, which I saw done to an Old grey-hair'd Man; the same Barbarities were us'd five Miles from *Wibourg*, where they, in one House, Murther'd above twenty Persons; continuing the aforesaid Method of Burnings and Martyrdoms every where: And whilst some were Employ'd in the Burning and Scorchings, others took Men and Women Naked, and hung them with Ropes under the Ceilings, tying their Legs together, and thrusting long Poles between them, and at each End, some Dragoons weighing them down, and swung them till the poor People's Limbs were unjointed, and in the mean while, Whipping and Lashing them, and using all manner of Cruelties, all which has been done in the Presence of their Commanding Officers. As for their Beastly and Lustful Actions, in forcing of the Women, I abhor to mention; besides the many Numberless Innocent Children and Young People they carried from every Place along with them in Slavery.

My Flesh trembled, and I beheld with horror, the great Number of People they Barbarously killed, and afterwards fed upon; all the *Islands* Parish did testifie, that some *Calmuck Tartars* did come from the North in *August* last, having with them in their Sledges two Females and a Male Child cut in quarters, in order to be Roasted, and for them to eat. Many more are the Cruelties those People use towards ours, too tedious to give your Lordships an Account of;

I remain, &c.

Abo, Novemb. 7, 1711.

ADVER-

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